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amendment that need to be made in the existing laws to make the national highways safe for travel;

(c) if so, whether a decision has been made to set up a universal safety fund; and

(d) if so, what are other main terms that the Committee would consider and by what time this Committee is likely to submit its recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) A Committee was constituted to deliberate and recommend on creation of Road Safety and Traffic Regulations.

(c) The proposal under consideration of the Government is for a Dedicated Safety Fund for Road Safety.

(d) The broad terms of reference of the Committee are as under:-

(i) To assess the present magnitude of road traffic injuries and fatalities in India as a public health and economic problem;

(ii) To study international example of organizations for road safety and traffic regulation with a view to drawing lessons for India;

(iii) To propose a Road Safety Organisation at the Central Government level and recommend the functions and responsibilities of the proposed organization;

(iv) To suggest amendment of relevant traffic laws;

(v) To suggest the financing mechanisms for such an organization; and

(vi) To suggest measure for rescue and relief of accident victim.

The Committee has been asked to give its recommendations by 31st January, 2006.

Inland waterways proposals from Maharashtra

1029. SHRI BALWANT ALIAS BAL APTE:
PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra had submitted 13 proposals for inland water transport waterways, costing about Rs. 118.04 crores;